(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to sensitize tourist centres to attract foreign travellers *i.e.* promote hygiene and security which is the prime concern of the foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The private sector plays a major role as tour operator/travel agents and by setting up of hotels. They have also shown interest for the development of tourism in the States/region in the sector of adventure tourism, cruise tourism, resort tourism and upkeep of monuments etc.

(c) The Government have taken the following steps for the development of Tourism:

1. Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;
2. Creation of world class infrastructure;
3. Attention of civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
4. Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in tourism.

The Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan have already created Special Tourism Police Force and the Government of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi are in the process of deployment of Special Tourist Police for the safety of the foriegn tourists.

Outcome of the meeting of Asian Network of Major Cities

2803. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a host of Asian countries which share common values and aesthetic perceptions met in New Delhi on 20 to 23 November,

2002 under the banner of Asian Network of Major Cities-21 in order to forge close links between various countries to create a common cultural identity;

(b) if so, the number of countries which participated in the meeting; and

(c) what were the main subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The National Capital Territory of Delhi hosted a meeting of Asian Network of Major Cities-21 at Delhi from 20-23 November, 2002 comprising of 12 major Asian cities namely Bangkok, Beijing, Delhi, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo and Yangon. All cities except Manila and Yangon participated.

(c) The main subjects discussed during the meeting were:

(i) to strengthen social and economic ties and collaboration through working together on Joint Projects, exchange information in a wide range of fields, including promotion and development of Asia made jet passenger planes, economic cooperation, culture, human resource development, issues of gender and urban issue;

(ii) Policy dialogue on air pollution and information technology;

(iii) to network for crisis management and exchange information and knowledge and train manpower;

(iv) to promote Asian business and investment project;

(v) to ensure steady progress in implementing the 15 joint projects; and

(vi) to encourage tourism by hosting at least one major international event each year by member cities during its tourist season as a part of "Welcome to Asia" campaign.

At the end of the meeting a Delhi Declaration was released, articulating the above items.